

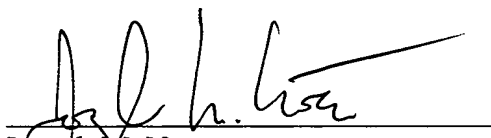
REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing in advance of the initial Office Action is respectfully requested.

By the present preliminary amendment, claims 1-17 have been amended and new claims 18-28 have been presented to conform the foreign language originating claim text to U.S. practice.

Early allowance of the pending claims is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Noto
Registration No. 32,163

Date: February 12, 2004

NIXON PEABODY LLP
Clinton Square, P.O. Box 31051
Rochester, New York 14603
Telephone: (585) 263-1601
Facsimile: (585) 263-1600